

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

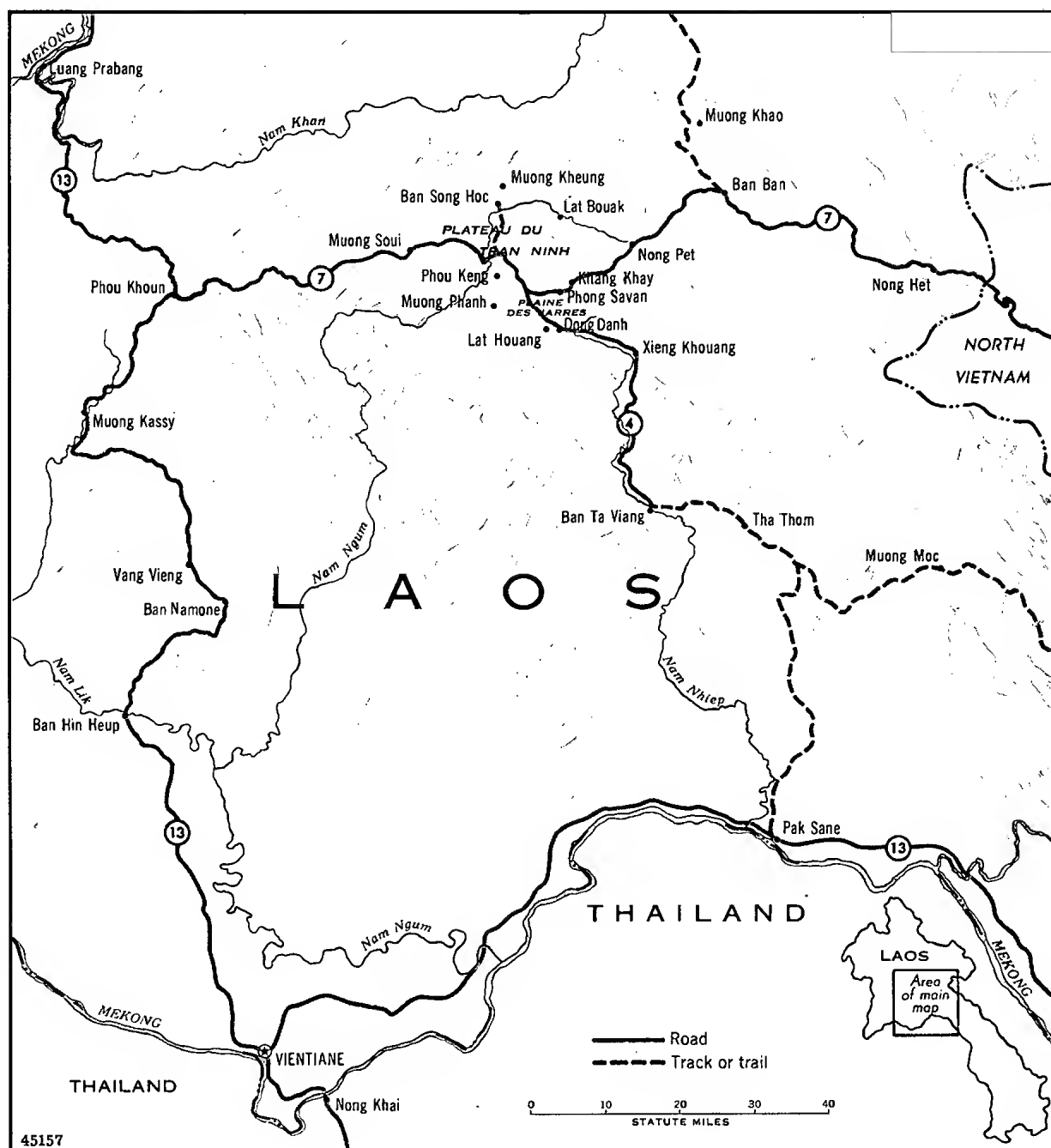


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18 MAY 1964
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Laos

a. The neutralists appear to retain only a few toeholds in the Plaine des Jarres.

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b. [REDACTED]

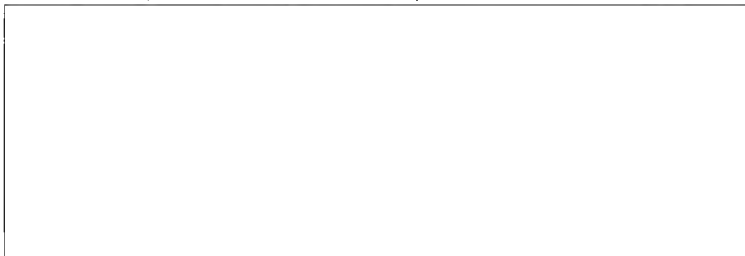
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[REDACTED] the bulk of Kong Le's troops have withdrawn westward from Muong Phanb, although some neutralists remain at the former headquarters site.

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e. South of the Plaine, the Communists have moved south from recently captured Tha Thom toward Paksane in the Mekong Valley.

(Cont'd)



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g. Control of the Plaine puts the Communists in control of almost all of Laos save the Mekong Valley. We believe they will press on to consolidate their gains and improve their logistical position before the rainy season sets in, but we think they will stop short of attacking major positions in the valley itself.



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2. South Vietnam

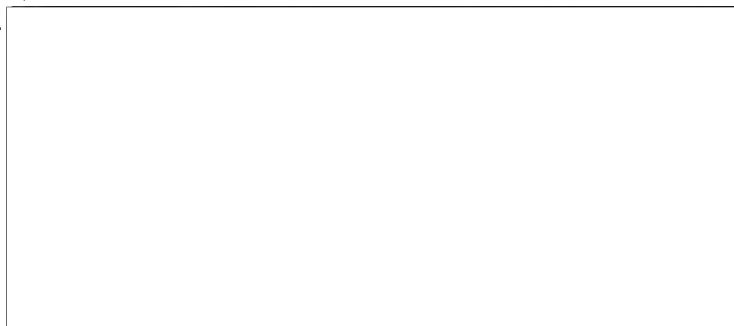
a. Frictions within the Buddhist movement broke into the open last week, but by week's end were papered over as attention turned to this week's celebrations of Buddha's birthday.

b. Militant Buddhist Tri Quang has been trying to swing the movement behind his public complaints that the regime is doing too little to redress the wrongs committed by the Diem regime. He had threatened demonstrations, but now promises the government additional time.

c. Though he has apparently been temporarily outmaneuvered by the government and more moderate Buddhist leaders, Quang remains a potentially dangerous source of trouble, all too willing to pit his strength against the government were it to suit his purpose.

3. USSR

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4. UK-USSR

a. An official of Britain's Imperial Chemical Industries has announced that contracts worth \$140 million for a synthetic fiber complex will be signed within the next two weeks. Discussions involving "very large sums" for fertilizer production equipment also have been started.

b. Long-term credits, the first offered to the USSR by the West, will cover these deals.

c. The British government offered last year to guarantee credits to the USSR up to a total of \$280 million. It was only recently, however, that private British financing and insurance was assembled to enable ICI to proceed with negotiations.

d. The Soviets must expect these deals to jar loose competitive credit offers elsewhere.

(Cont'd)

e. Mikoyan, in Japan, has offered to buy \$350 million worth of Japanese industrial plants if Tokyo would relax its present five-year credit terms. The Japanese, we understand, turned Mikoyan down. However, a Japanese chemical plant mission is scheduled to visit the USSR next month.

NOTES

A. Cyprus Cyprus remained quiet over the weekend. The UN is giving Makarios until Wednesday to return the 32 Turkish Cypriot hostages seized last week, but, as we reported Saturday, there is fear many of these have been killed. The quiet is not likely to last.

B. Bolivia The Bolivian government is bracing for disorders and possible violence today.

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C.

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D. Suez Canal Traffic is beginning to move again in the Suez Canal, but it may take a week or more to get it back on schedule. Over 300 ships are now backed up at Suez, half of them tankers.

E. Mexico-Brazil Brazil has recalled its ambassador in Mexico and is not naming a chargé to act in his absence. Mexico did the same thing several weeks ago to show its distaste for the new Brazilian regime. Relations between the two countries are thus being allowed to drift more or less into limbo even though the Mexican embassy in Rio is harboring some 25 pro-Goulart asylees.

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